GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2191
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN SOUTHERN STATES
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Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Southern States have signed an agreement to strengthen and facilitate tourist operation in the States;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement;

(c) whether the Government propose to offer any new packages to improve the domestic/international tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) and (b) : A conference of Southern States Tourism Ministers and Tourism Secretaries was held in Kovalam in January 2002 to discuss various issues related to tourism industry in the country and particularly in South India. The Conference adopted the following resolutions unanimously in order to strengthen and facilitate tourist operations in the Southern States:

1) Govt. of India should do away with Expenditure Tax. Correspondingly the State Govts. will reduce and cap luxury tax at 10% on actual rates realised.

2) The recommendations regarding Zonal tourist permit should be implemented in all the Southern states comprising of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh.

3) Govt. of India may introduce Visa on arrival facility at all the South Indian airports.

4) All requests from international carriers to land in Indian Airports and particularly in South India

Airports should be given permission immediately to stimulate growth in tourism.

5) The Govt. of India and the State Governments should immediately reinstate LTC facilities to their employees in order to promote domestic tourism. Alternatively individuals and companies should be given tax breaks to encourage domestic tourism.

6) The Govt. of India and the State Govts. should take most urgent steps to reduce taxation to make the domestic travel competitive and comparable.

(c) and (d) : The Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated the following short term and long term plans to attract the foreign as well as domestic tourists: -

1) Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity.

2) Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination

3) Improving India`s existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements

4) Creation of world class infrastructure

5) Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes

6) Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism and

7) Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration and good governance and also of social and cultural values.